

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235583

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINT, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE
FROM: EA/K - PHILIP MAYHEW

1. PRISONER RELEASES (CONF)

THERE HAVE BEEN NO PRISONER RELEASES SINCE AUGUST, AND
THE ROKG IS NO LONGER URGING THE PRISONERS TO SIGN STATE-
MENTS, ALTHOUGH ITS OFFER TO RELEASE THOSE WHO SIGN IS
APPARENTLY STILL OPEN. ONE FACTOR IN THIS HALT IN RELEASES
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IS US/ROK FRICTION OVER THE PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR; THE ROKG,
ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE, MAY FEEL THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME
TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE U.S. IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SPHERE.
REINFORCING THIS ATTITUDE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS BY THE OPPOSI-
TION TO USE THE PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR TO CRITICIZE THE
GOVERNMENT, MAKING THE ROKG EVEN MORE RELUCTANT TO RELAX
ITS CONTROLS.

2. CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON KOREA (LOU)

WE HAVE COMPLETED A DRAFT UPDATING LAST YEAR'S REPORT ON KOREA REQUIRED BY SECTION 668 OF THE 1976 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

ACT. THE REPORT, REQUIRED "AT LEAST ONCE DURING EACH OF THE NEXT FIVE YEARS", MUST REVIEW KOREAN FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRESS, THE U.S. ROLE IN MUTUAL SECURITY EFFORTS, AND THE "PROSPECTS FOR OR IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASED REDUCTION" OF U.S. FORCES. AFTER DOD AND OTHER CLEARANCES IT WILL BE SENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.

3. NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK (UNC)

FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 28, HO TAM GAVE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO UPI STAFFER R.M. SORGE. SORGE APPARENTLY RECEIVED ON THE SPOT GUIDANCE, SINCE HE DIDN'T ASK MANY QUESTIONS, BUT RATHER REPORTED A SERIES OF PRONOUNCEMENTS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HO SAID THE USUAL ON PEACEFUL INTENTIONS AND NORTH KOREAN WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., ADDING THAT THE U.S. TROOP PRESENCE AND OUR SUPPORT FOR THE ROKG WERE THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO IMPROVED U.S.-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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